

W2ASACT MEETING NOTES  
Meeting on June 14, 2016, 9:30 am to 12 pm  
DEQ, Metcalf Building, Room 45

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**Members present:**

Paul LaVigne	DEQ/PPA/SRF
Kari Smith	DEQ
Mark Smith	DEQ/PPA/SRF
Bill Herbolich	DNRC/RDB
Anna Miller	DNRC/FDB
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/RDB
Bob Fischer	DNRC/RDB
Rick Duncan	DNRC/FDB
Denise Cook	DNRC/RFB

**Others present:**

Rika Lashley	Morrison-Maierle
Jennifer Maggic	Sen Tester's Office
John Camden	MRWS
Amy Mackenzie-Sanders	MAP
Josh Jabalera	MAP
Craig Erickson	Great West Eng.
Elisa Prescott	Great West Eng.

**Via Conf. Phone:**

Karen Sanchez	USDA/RD
Erinn Zindt	MAP
Steve Troendle	USDA/RD

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Call to Order, Sign-in Sheet, Agenda Changes

Lindsay Volpe, Chair, called the scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) to order at 9:35am, on Tuesday, June 14, 2016. Sign-in sheet was routed, meeting agenda and copies of the March 8 meeting notes were available to all those in attendance. Those present as well as those via conference phone, briefly introduced themselves. The notes from the March 8, 2016 meeting were distributed. Mark Smith made a motion to accept the minutes and Bob Fischer a second and the minutes were approved and adopted.

Guest Speaker:

Anna Miller, DNRC Conservation and Resource Development Division Financial Advisor

“The 2016 Montana Rate Study: Who is Paying What for Water & Wastewater”

Anna mentioned that the Rate Study is on the DNRC web site. With the help of Pam Smith, who has since retired, the Rate Study began. Anna thanked Bill Herbolich and Sonja Hoeglund for their efforts in completing the most recent rate study which is as of 2015. Anna referred to a map of the average monthly water rates by median household income. She pointed out that in the map legend the income amount is indicated by different colors of shading, which is visible on the map. The colored dots on the map represent the various rate levels, which are also listed in the map legend.

Anna noted that staff researched water and wastewater rates in 2013 and 2015. She said in many cities, towns and water districts, the same person did not submit data for a particular location. It may have been a clerk, an engineer or other who completed the survey. Anna

referred to the DNRC Rate Comparison 2013 and 2015, which had been distributed. In looking at the data on the comparison, Anna pointed out that for some communities, there was either no response, no data, or no system, which are indicated by NR, ND, and NS on the comparison spreadsheet.

The example was given of Bainville where both water and wastewater rates have increased from 2013 to 2015. And the same is true for other communities such as Brady and Cut Bank, who have had improvements. CARDD is working on a wastewater system in Cut Bank so the rates will go up for those customers. Harlowton's rates have gone down, but will go up due to a project and we will try to update that data in 2017.

Overall, Anna said that communities are paying a fair amount for their water and wastewater service. This data is on our website under CARDD News. Anna also mentioned that the water and wastewater maps do not incorporate all cities and towns. Bob Fischer asked if we could put the rate study data on the W2ASACT website and Anna said yes. Mark Smith commented that the data is very useful.

(At this point, we re-joined Erinn Zindt on the phone)

#### Subcommittee Updates

##### W2ASACT workshops

Anna said they were well attended. Josh attended the Billings workshop and said it was very informative.

##### Uniform Application and Standard Documents – Bob and Mark

Bob reported that there was an insignificant change to the wording on the online version. Ross Campbell made the change, which was on page 56.

##### Website – Lindsay Volpe

If there are changes that need to be made or things that need to be included on the website, contact Lindsay.

#### Program Updates

##### Lindsay Volpe

May 17, 2016 was the deadline to submit RRGL applications. Lindsay distributed the 2019 Biennium RRGL applications list. We received 93 applications, 2 of which came over from Reclamation Development. At this point, the applications are with the reviewers. August 8, the scores will be viewed and the list of applicants should be out by the end of October.

##### Bill Herbolich

Bill reported that the private grant program is getting through the money from the last cycle and he is down to \$30,000.

Anna Miller

Anna is working on the wastewater revolving fund program. The city of Great Falls has a \$25million upgrade to its water treatment plant. There are also projects in Cut Bank and Polson.

Bob Fischer – Emergency Update

Bob announced Lindsay Volpe as the new RRGL Manger. He also mentioned that Paul and Mark will be doing RRGL secondary reviews.

Mark Smith

The drinking water is out of control. There is \$8 million in federal funding being allocated to projects. \$8 million is down from last year. Next Thursday, June 23, there is a public hearing at 1:30 at DEQ. The Intended Use Plan is a collaboration of efforts.

Amy Mackenzie-Sanders - MAP (Midwest Assistance Program)

She is planning training in Froid and Ryegate this September. There is a link on website. (I could not find a link on the MAP website or from DNRC's site).

John Camden

A new wastewater technician in Valier so there will be training position open the end of July. Shelly Nolan has been hired as a Source Water Protection Assistant. Rural Water conference is February 22-24 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. Contact John for more info or if you need reservations.

Jennifer Madgic – Senator Jon Tester's Office – Congressional Update

The senate passed an appropriation bill for \$43.8 million for several projects. Montana will receive \$30 million. \$18 million will go to Missouri River recovery program. The house version was defeated. This is a tough time to get stuff through.

Paul LaVigne

IUP on the wastewater side has a provisional part, which is discretionary. Projects that qualify for provisions are identified. Optimization work is being planned on wastewater treatment plants. Paul reference a booklet called "Low Cost Nutrient Removal in Montana" which is a 2016 report on 11 wastewater treatment plants. He has a few copies and can send a pdf. (Denise also has a pdf of this booklet).

Bob Fischer

Bob is working with TSEO to coordinate a project at Sweetgrass. He explained that there is a water pipe that runs under the interstate. The pipe is leaking and affecting service. TSEP will help fund this project.

Bob also reported that there is a water district outside of Columbia Falls called Flathead County Water District 101. The district has many problems and they will be looking for funding assistance. The RRGL program may get them \$20,000. They need help as soon as possible. John said that that district used to be called Columbia Heights.

No Tribal Update aside from Rick Duncan's Regional Water Update.

### Regional Water – Rick Duncan

Rick said that there is \$13 million worth of projects, most of which is in North Central Montana. We are looking at reduced funds in Rural Water projects. The following is Rick's summary on Regional Water projects.

### **Fort Peck- Dry Prairie**

**Fort Peck Tribes** -- Plans for installation of the necessary structures at the WTP to remove fine-grained sediments from the raw water before it enters the plant are proceeding, with Reclamation taking the lead in the review process. There are additional structures or devices planned for both the Missouri River raw water intake facility and the WTP.

A map of Assiniboine and Sioux and Dry Prairie Rural Water Systems was distributed. This map show various projects at different stages of completion.

\*The Frazer-to-Porcupine Creek main pipe segment is complete. When there is electrical power to the Porcupine Creek metering pit, the pipeline will be ready to operate. The lines within the community of Frazer also need to be flushed, which their O&M staff has been reluctant to do during the winter months.

\*Work on construction of branch service mains between Poplar and Wolf Point, which began in the spring of 2015, is complete between the WTP and Poplar. A total of 180 service connections have also been installed. Additionally, branch line work between the WTP and Wolf Point is under way. There are >400 connections in this segment.

\*Bids were opened in September 2015 for installation of service line mains between Poplar and Fort Kipp. That work is expected to be completed by autumn of 2016.

\*Plans for the next major on-Reservation infrastructure include the mainline north from a point east of Poplar to the north Reservation boundary. That phase is under development, and will likely be bid in 2016, provided that sufficient funds are appropriated by Congress. Recent supplemental appropriations administered through Reclamation give the Tribes a total of approximately \$11.5 million for FFY 2016.

**Dry Prairie** -- With successful process conversion at the regional WTP allowing supply of chloraminated water to users both on- and off-Reservation, Dry Prairie began receiving chloraminated water mid-July 2015, gradually replacing chlorinated water service both to towns and rural customers. Disinfection by-product concentrations have been reduced significantly. With the latest quarterly sampling for DBPs indicating lower levels than previous quarters, Dry Prairie has met the criteria to allow annual sampling.

\*The City of Glasgow notified Dry Prairie in April that they would NOT be contracting to receive regional water from the Authority. Accordingly, Dry Prairie's engineering team has been re-working plans for the pipeline between Nashua and Glasgow, with plans currently to down-size from the 16-inch diameter to one 12-inch diameter line. Due to the fact that 76% of project construction costs are covered by the Federal government, this will result in approximately \$4 million in project cost reduction for the Dry Prairie portions. In the future, if Glasgow were to decide it wants water from the regional plant, the City would have to pay the entire amount of development costs for installation of a second 12-inch diameter main from Nashua to Glasgow.

\*There are both a DNRC TSRWS construction grant and a Drinking Water SRF (DW-SRF) loan in 2016 for the project, which will supplement Federal project funds, for the construction of the Valley County Area "B" segment to serve homes west-northwest of Glasgow. Macon, the successful bidder for that project, began work in late November of 2015. Completion date for that project segment is in Autumn 2016. (Dry Prairie's share of the aforementioned conference and supplemental funds totals about \$4.5 million.)

### **Rocky Boy's-North Central**

**Chippewa-Cree Construction Corporation** – The Tribal Construction Corporation has begun work on installation of two 30-inch diameter water mains for the future purpose of conveying raw water from the intake facility located adjacent to Tiber Dam on Lake Elwell up the hill to the WTP site on property previously held by the US Bureau of Reclamation. A map of the projects near Rocky Boy's Reservation was distributed for reference of the progress.

**North Central Montana Authority** – Construction on the Shelby-to-Cut Bank project segment was begun in September 2015. The pipeline construction work proceeded well into the autumn. All horizontal boring from Shelby to Cut Bank was also completed before winter shutdown. The pipeline contractor remobilized in mid-March, and the crews are typically installing between 3500 and 5000 feet per week. The successful bidder for the second schedule including the Cut Bank metering station, standpipe and Ethridge booster pump station (BPS) began mobilizing the week of February 29<sup>th</sup>. Currently iron work and concrete pours for the BPS are being dealt with by the Central Plumbing & Heating's subcontractors, and access roads have been installed to both the BPS and standpipe locations. (Please refer to copies of the most recent weekly construction updates from KLJ for further details.)

**Dry-Redwater:** In June 2015 a bill for Federal authorization of both the Musselshell-Judith regional project and Dry-Redwater regional project was introduced by Senator Daines, with support from Senator Tester. Rep. Zinke introduced a companion bill in the House late in Calendar 2015. The language authorizing these two systems has now been incorporated into legislation dealing with western drought relief and energy issues. Offsets for funding of the two systems were located and identified as part of previous Federal education bills which were never fully realized. Chair of Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee, Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) is running for re-election this year, and reports are that she is keen to see the bill pass. Due to pressure from Congress to make the project more economically feasible (better cost-benefit ratios), plans are now proceeding to include both Sidney and Glendive in the regional system.

The Dry Redwater map was distributed indicating the project boundary as well as existing pipes connecting the various cities and towns.

\*Through the Sidney South project, Dry Redwater in September 2014 began providing water supply and limited sewer service to properties south of Sidney. DRWA owns and operates the water and sewer mains outside of the city limits. Water received from Sidney supplies lots south and southwest of town. Sewage collected for a limited number of lots is treated at Sidney's wastewater treatment facilities. A water main extension planned for an area known as East Yellowstone is receiving financial assistance from Richland County for engineering services. Plans and specifications have been approved by DEQ. A uniform application for TSRWS grant funds has been evaluated by DNRC, and combined grant funds and an SRF loan will be available, pending receipt of additional information requested, and securing of easements for pipeline. Bids were opened in early May; construction could begin yet this year.

**Central Montana** (Musselshell-Judith project): A draft Feasibility Study Report submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation in 2013 reached the end of an historic review period earlier in 2015, yet Reclamation is still finding ways to perform further studies and request additional info.

The Central Montana Regional Water Authority map was distributed showing various project phases.

\*The 2015 Legislature authorized TSRWS funding for ground-water monitoring in the Judith Basin, based on an RDGP grant application. With a grant agreement in place, monitoring has begun, and will run for 3 monitoring seasons. Bids were opened earlier in 2016 on proposed extended pump tests, spring monitoring, monitoring well installations, and additional activities.

Rick also passed around copies of a KLJ Construction Field Report for the Shelby to Cut Bank project. This report outlined the progress and included photos.

Anna commented that she is proud that DNRC can get help to these Rural Water systems. \$11.3 million of bids are with the Shelby to Cut Bank project. On the Rocky Boy's, Bob noted that not much has been completed and what has been finished has had compliance issues. Anna added that we have been able to provide interim solutions which have helped to facilitate relationships. Bo asked about the progress on Tiber water to the reservation and Rick said that is dependent on Congress and the level of funding determines the completion.

(At this point, Erinn re-joined the meeting via conference call and was also joined by Steve Troendle via phone.)

Steve reported that he has no workshop updates. He said that money is running out in 50 days. Karen said there were some updates to the environmental regulations which will simplify the process. 90% are categorical exclusions. Steve said that interest rates are low and going down. He said they are obligating, obligating, obligating and that over \$87 million has been obligated for Montana. They have 7 loan specialists now and will soon be down to 6. Cut Bank could have been the only project funded, but money was spread out. The feds have noticed the money that Rural Development has used. Steve said that there are 7 projects on the list. The \$52 million exceeds last years by \$4 million. They are seeing some online application activity.

End of Updates

Next meeting is set for Tuesday, September 13 at Board of Investments. Details from Julie Flynn will be coming.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12.